a display coupled to said processor;

a data storage device coupled to said processor for storing a computer-implemented object, including:

an object state; and

one or more interfaces providing access to the object state through a plurality of attributes, each of the attributes defined as a functional expression and referenceable at run-time as a data value.

42. The computer system of claim 41, wherein the functional expression includes one or more of the following:

a function;

an operator;

a database column name;

a variable; and

a constant.

43. The computer system of claim 41, wherein the attribute is a static data value.

44. The computer system of claim 41, further comprising a name-value pair for each property.

45. The computer system of claim 41, wherein the functional expression is parsed to generate a function which is stored as a run-time value.

46. The computer system of claim 45, further comprising byte code associated with the function.

47. The computer system of claim 41, wherein the function is cloned and stored as a design time value if the function is a constant.

48. The computer system of claim 41, wherein an error message is displayed if the expression is invalid.

49. The computer system of claim 41, wherein an existing byte code execution image is invalidated.

50. The computer system of claim 49, wherein new byte code is generated to replace the existing byte code execution image.

51. Computer software for assigning a property to an object, the object having a value input adapted to receive a functional expression for the property, the functional expression being referenceable at run-time as a data value, the computer software residing on a computer-readable medium and comprising instructions for causing a computer to perform the following operations:

receive an expression for the property into the value input;

parse the expression and storing the expression as a function; and

evaluate the expression at run-time in context to generate a referenceable data value for the property.

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